



ST MARTIN'S CHURCH BARNEHURST

PARISH NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2026



NOVEMBER SERVICES – all services begin at 10.30am

Sunday 1st November 10.30am	All Saints Day. Rev George Baisley
Sunday 8th November 10.30am	Remembrance Sunday. Parade Service. Andrew Hill
Sunday 15th November 10.30am	Safeguarding Sunday and Bring & Share Lunch. Rev Alisoun Francis
Sunday 22nd November 10.30am	Rev George Baisley
Sunday 29th November 10.30am	1 st Sunday of Advent. Rev Paul Wright

PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

For information about St Martin's you can visit our website at www.aChurchNearYou.com/saint-martins-barnehurst
Email st.martins.barnehurst@gmail.com for parish matters or contact st.martins.hall@gmail.com for hall bookings.
For any pastoral matters please contact the Area Dean, Anthea Harris Faulkner via any of the contact details below
vicar@stjohnandchristchurcherith.org.uk 01322 334729 Christ Church, Victoria Road, Erith, Kent, DA8 3AN

FROM FATHER GARETH

As you know I have been off work for an extended period due to a serious medical condition called Autoimmune Encephalitis. This condition has had a significant impact on my health, my daily life, and my ability to carry out my normal work responsibilities. My absence has not been a choice, but a necessity because of the severity of my illness and the time required for treatment, recovery, and rehabilitation. Autoimmune Encephalitis is a condition in which the body's immune system mistakenly attacks the brain, causing inflammation and affecting how the brain functions. It can lead to a wide range of symptoms, including problems with memory, concentration, thinking, communication, balance, sleep, and emotional wellbeing. The condition can also cause extreme fatigue, confusion, and difficulties processing information. These symptoms can make even ordinary daily activities challenging, let alone the demands and responsibilities of ministry.

One of the main reasons I have been unable to return to work is that recovery from Autoimmune Encephalitis is lengthy and unpredictable process. Although treatment can help control the inflammation and improve symptoms, recovery is not always straightforward. The brain needs time to heal, and symptoms can continue long after the initial illness. Progress can be slow, and there may be good days and days when symptoms become more difficult to manage.

Living with this condition has meant dealing with physical, cognitive, and emotional challenges that have affected my independence and quality of life. Concentrating for extended periods, remembering information, managing tasks, making decisions, and coping with stress all become much harder. Fatigue is overwhelming, meaning that activities that previously felt normal may now require considerable effort and recovery time.

Returning to work before I am medically ready could place too much pressure on my recovery and make it difficult to manage my symptoms safely and effectively. Ministry requires consistency, concentration, reliability, and the ability to cope with everyday demands. At present, the effects of my condition and the ongoing recovery process have made it difficult to guarantee that I can meet these expectations consistently. My prolonged absence should therefore be understood in the context of a serious neurological illness rather than a straightforward or short-term health problem. Recovery requires appropriate medical care, follow-up appointments, rest, and time to regain the abilities affected by the condition.

I want to emphasise that being off work for so long has been difficult, and I understand the impact my absence may have on Saint Martin's. However, my priority must be to recover as fully as possible and avoid returning prematurely before I am well enough to cope with the demands of my role.

I hope this explains why my absence has been prolonged and why I need continued time and support during my recovery from Autoimmune Encephalitis. My aim is to make progress towards the best possible recovery, with any return to work being guided by my health, medical advice, and ability to manage my responsibilities safely.



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GOSPELS FOR NOVEMBER

1st November 2026 Matthew 5.1–12
8th November 2026 Matthew 25.1–13
15th November 2026 Matthew 25.14–30
22nd November 2026 Matthew 25.31–end
29th November 2026 Mark 13.24–37

COLLECT FOR ALL SAINTS DAY

God of holiness, your glory is proclaimed in every age:
as we rejoice in the faith of your saints, inspire us to follow their
example with boldness and joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

COFFEE SHOP – every Tuesday from 10 -12 in the Maxim Room.
Come and join us

In November we ask you to pray for everyone living or working in Ambleside Road, Eskdale Road, Francis Avenue, Keswick Road, Lavernock Road, St. Audrey Avenue, Swanbridge Road, The Green and Wenvoe Avenue. We also ask you to remember the following people in your thoughts and prayers. Father Gareth and Julie, Andrew, Sandra, Angela R, David Bo, David T, Elizabeth M, Jean B, John M, Joyce P, Julia J, Keith R, Mary P, Neil R, Rob P, and all who are suffering in body, mind and spirit. If you have any specific prayer requests or an approaching significant special event, please let us know using the parish contact details above

Tickets for the Musical Afternoon will be available in church, at coffee shop and CAMEO from Sunday 8th November

THANK YOU FROM BEXLEY WOMENS AID

An enormous 'THANK YOU' to everyone for the amazing Harvest donations Bexley Women's Aid received from St Martin's. There was just about room for it all in the car which was full to the brim!

Every item is gratefully received and will make a big difference to the families we support in refuge and the local community. Our store cupboards were running very low, but thanks to you all we now have some surplus which we can use throughout the next few weeks.

Your donation plays a significant role in the services that we provide at Bexley Women's Aid, and will enable us to keep providing as much as we can to the families we support. We greatly appreciate your kindness and generosity.

Please pass on our thanks to everyone involved.

CHRISTMAS MUSICAL AFTERNOON
28 NOVEMBER 2026
2PM - 4PM
£5 (INCLUDES REFRESHMENTS)
COME ALONG. LISTEN & SING TO
YOUR FAVOURITE CHRISTMAS
SONGS AND CAROLS.
ST MARTIN'S CHURCH,
ERITH RD, DA7 6LE
fundraising for St. Martin's Church

Contact st.martins.mag@gmail.com to add or remove someone from the mailing list
or if you have anything that you would like included in the next issue



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St Martin's FESTIVE FAIR

**SATURDAY 12 DECEMBER
2026 | 11AM - 2PM**

St Martin's Church,
Erith Road, DA7 6LE

**FREE
ENTRY**

Gifts & games
Raffle & tombolas
Mulled wine • Hot & cold food

Everyone welcome – bring family and friends!

raising funds to support St Martin's Church

ST MARTIN'S CHURCH MONTHLY DRAW

£1 Per ticket

Email: stmartins.monthlydraw@gmail.com

Drawn on Sunday 25th October

1st £25 Jean Baldwin 2nd £10 Ann Hazelton

3rd £5 Deborah Farren 4th £5 Jan Hailstone

ST MARTIN'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

BRING AND SHARE LUNCH

SUNDAY 15TH NOVEMBER 2026

12PM TO 2PM

To celebrate the 90th anniversary of the
consecration of the church
Everyone welcome, please come and join us

QUIZ NIGHT

The recent Quiz Night raised £550 for church funds.
Thank you to everyone who came along and supported
the event

CAMEO (MU)

Our next CAMEO meeting is **on Monday 9th November
at 1.30pm**. We will be planning both the programme for
next year and our December Christmas Social.

ADVENT CALENDARS

Bexley Women's Aid would again welcome Advent
Calendars to give to the families they support.

Please deliver these to Church, CAMEO or Coffee Shop by
Tuesday 24th November. They will be collected by Bexley
Women's Aid on Wednesday 25th.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT ST MARTIN'S



Sunday 20th December 10.30am 9 Lessons & Carols

Thursday 24th December 4.00pm Christingle Service

Thursday 24th December 11.30pm Midnight Mass

Friday 25th December 9.30am Christmas Day (said mass)

Sunday 27th December 10.30am (Eucharist)

POSTAGE STAMPS

Please remember to save stamps from your Christmas
mail. They are used to provide talking books for blind
people. Stamps can be torn from the envelopes, leaving
a small border of paper around each one. There are
collecting boxes in the Hall kitchen and at the back of
church.